



PRESS RELEASE

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USAID DONATES COMPUTER EQUIPMENT TO IMPROVE ADMINISTRATION OF LABOR JUSTICE

SAN SALVADOR— In an effort to strengthen labor case tracking, case management and jurisprudence information management, U.S. Ambassador Charles L. Glazer inaugurated this morning the Court Automation System of the Civil Chamber of the Supreme Court (CSJ, in Spanish) and handed over computer equipment, valued at \$30,000, to the Supreme Court President, Dr. Agustín García Calderón.

The donation is part of the assistance provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to the countries participating in the U.S.-Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR). This is the beginning of USAID assistance to the CSJ on this regard. Additionally, USAID will provide technical assistance and other computer equipment to expand the Court Automation System in all labor courts of El Salvador.

In Chapter 16 of the CAFTA-DR, the signatories committed to enforcing their labor laws and improving labor conditions. Therefore, administration of labor justice is one of the key priorities for the Central American region. Under its Central America and Mexico Regional Program, USAID launched a project to strengthen labor justice institutions, with an investment of over \$7 million for a three year period. Under its Regional Strengthening Labor Justice Program, USAID supports labor judiciary on the design, development and implementation of electronic judiciary management systems to strengthen labor case tracking, case management and jurisprudence information management within the Central America region and the Dominican Republic.

The Civil Chamber of the Supreme Court, which handles most of El Salvador's labor cases, has developed an initial design for its Court Automation System. With USAID's support, the Supreme Court will reinforce effective court administration in the labor courts, increase access by judges and labor justice system practitioners to current jurisprudence, and provide useful information to the general public.

During the equipment hand-over ceremony, Ambassador Charles L. Glazer said the U.S. government is supporting the government of El Salvador to make sure workers' rights are protected. The USAID regional program seeks to strengthen information systems, train judges and practitioners in labor justice topics, and introduce oral procedures, alternative dispute resolution and other processes to accelerate the resolution of labor cases.

The U.S. government, through several agencies, has committed \$40 million per year in labor and environment projects in the countries participating in CAFTA-DR through fiscal year 2009.

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